**Learning Activity 1-D-2**

**Local History Project Idea**

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**Topic: Our Communities in the Revolutionary War**

So much of Revolutionary War history focuses on Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. But the war also affected those who lived outside Philadelphia, such as Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, and the present-day Quakertown area. In this project, students will explore questions such as these:

* Who settled here? What was the background of these people? Why did they come to Pennsylvania?
* What were their lives like?
* How did the war affect them?
* What places and events involved settlements in this area of Pennsylvania?

In a classroom project, small groups could work on researching specific groups of people, like the English and Germans who settled in Northern Bucks County, the Moravians in Bethlehem, and the English in Easton, and gather information that may answer the above questions.

**Possible Brick & Mortar Resources with their Websites**

Brick and mortar sites may provide some information, including primary sources. Photos of some of the information could provide resources to students

Bucks County Historical Society: <http://newsite.mercermuseum.org/>

Easton Historical Society: <http://www.eastonhistoricalsociety.org/>

Lehigh County Historical Society: <http://www.lchs.museum/>

Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society: <http://www.northamptonctymuseum.org/>

Quakertown Historical Society, 26 N. Main Street, Quakertown, PA 18951

Hellertown Historical Society: <http://sauconvalley.info/H-LS/hellertown_hist_Society.htm>

Lower Saucon Historical Society: <http://www.lutzfranklin.com/>

**Websites**

As the name suggests, this site does include information and primary source documents related to Bethlehem's history, with special attention to the years between 1741 and 1844*. The Bethlehem Digital History Project*: <http://bdhp.moravian.edu/home/home.html>

The historic Sun Inn in Bethlehem, visited by George Washington, John Adams, and others: <http://www.suninnbethlehem.org/>

A list of museums in Bethlehem: <http://www.bethlehempaonline.com/arts_museums.html>

Bethlehem’s web site, history of Bethlehem: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/History/historyArticlesAmericanRevolution.asp>

History of Bethlehem, The Moravian Church: <http://www.moravian.org/history/>

The Historic Bethlehem Museum website: <http://www.historicbethlehem.org>

This is a collection of online resources at Lehigh University, lots of information: <http://digital.lib.lehigh.edu/beyondsteel/society/>

A photograph of a mural depicting the Liberty Bell traveling through Quakertown, PA:

<http://www.jamesmannartfarm.com/libbell.html>

Liberty Bell Museum in Allentown: <http://www.libertybellmuseum.org/museum/index.html>

Tells about how Easton was selected as one of the places to read the Declaration of Independence: <http://www.heritageday.org/>

A nicely done Thinkquest site about colonial life in southeastern Pennsylvania: <http://library.thinkquest.org/J002611F/introduction.htm>

A possible resource about colonial life: <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/other.html>

Historical Society of Pennsylvania website which discusses settlement by different ethnic groups: <http://www.hsp.org/default.aspx?id=75>

**For what age group?**

8th grade

**How will this project be used?**

As stated above, this project will be used to help students reach PA standards. Beyond that, it’s a project that may be of interest to the community. A simple website or blog could be used to communicate learning and provide a resource to the community on this topic.

**How do you think this local topic will connect to other areas of your curriculum?**

Studying this local topic will give students insight into the Revolutionary War as a whole and how it affected people’s lives. The next step could be to compare their findings with experiences in some of the other 13 colonies. As shown below in the PA standards, this topic will challenge students to collect information and analyze that information in a historical context.

**What argument do you think you (or students) will make with this project?**

The struggle for American Independence affected those who settled our country in profound and significant ways.

Pennsylvania played a key part in the American Revolution, and our local communities as well as Philadelphia contributed important resources to the effort.

**Student Goals/Outcomes**

*Goal:*

Through participation in this project, students will develop greater understanding of the lives of those who lived during the American Revolution and the events that involved Pennsylvanians in that conflict.

*Standards:*

Pennsylvania standards for 8th grade to be addressed in the project:

**Subject Area - 8: History**

**Standard Area - 8.1: Historical Analysis and Skills Development**

**Grade Level - 8.1.8: GRADE 8**

**8.1.8.A:** Compare and contrast events over time and how continuity and change over time influenced those events.

**8.1.8.B:** Compare and contrast a historical event, using multiple points of view from **primary and secondary sources.**

**8.1.8.C:** Produce an organized product on an assigned historical topic that presents and reflects on a thesis statement and appropriate **primary and secondary sources.** (Reference RWSL Standard 1.8.8 Research)

**8.2.7.B:** Identify the role of local communities as related to significant historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to Pennsylvania history.

**8.2.8.A:**

Compare and contrast the **social, political**, cultural, and **economic** contributions of specific individuals and groups from Pennsylvania.